

DELAYED REACTIONS

THE WAY | A Journey Through Exodus
PART THREE | The Way Forward
Exodus 32-34
Responding to Divine Delays with Prayerful Trust

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WHEN GOD DELAYS

- Transitions combine this weird blend of positive and negative, of helpful and painful. They try your faith and stretch your soul
- ***You'll be tempted to rush through them, to get out of them as quickly as possible. Instead, choose to stay with them. Let God use them to do a work in your heart, to get you what you need for the next chapter of living with Jesus.***
- Ask Jesus to meet you in the waiting and to sustain you there. His work in you will bring you through to the other side with deeper humility, stronger character and greater reliance on him.

WHEN ISRAEL WOULDN'T WAIT

EXODUS 32:1-6

- The setting: Moses is up the mountain receiving instructions for The Tabernacle so that God's people can worship and fellowship with Yahweh.
- Israel wouldn't wait. They returned to Egyptian idolatry. The bull was power, dominance, and fertility. They indulged in pagan practices.
- Yahweh was not pleased and He was ready to destroy the people.

"Leave me alone so my fierce anger can blaze against them, and I will destroy them."

EXODUS 32:10

- Jesus said the cup was His blood
- Jesus, as God, made it a New Covenant.
- The cup was a sacrifice poured out.

WHEN MOSES INTERCEDED

EXODUS 32:11-14

- Moses is here a model of maturity
 1. He recounts that Israel is God's redeemed people.
 2. He defends God's honor. Don't destroy those you redeemed!
 3. He rejects God's offer to become the father of a nation and takes his place in the patriarchs.

MERCY OVER JUDGMENT

How eager and ready is God to forgive and relent? How quickly will God turn away from judgment unto His mercy?

“So the LORD changed his mind about the terrible disaster he had threatened to bring on his people.”

EXODUS 32:14

SIN’S CONSEQUENCES

Even though God turned from their destruction, there were still consequences for their sins.

- *Moses shatters the tablets of The Law.*
- *Moses smashes the golden calf and has it ground to powder and pass through the people unto uncleanness... eeew.*
- *3000 die at the hand of Levite swords.*
- *The people suffer a great plague from the Lord.*

MOSES PLEADS FOR RECONCILIATION

Moses pleads with the Lord to dwell with His people and to lead them into the Promised Land.

EXODUS 33:15-17

Moses gets to see the backside of God’s glory and his face shines reflecting God’s radiance.

EXODUS 34:28-33

JESUS OUR INTERCESSOR

- Humans are broken by sin. None of us has come through unscathed and undamaged.
- Even we who are redeemed are tempted to return to the old ways of our flesh. But Jesus...
 - *Jesus has interceded for us.*
- **He fulfilled The Law. He bore the guilt of our sin. He died our death. He gave us life. He restored us to fellowship with God. God now safely goes with us and leads us to the Promised Life.**

DURING THE DELAY; ASK, SEEK, KNOCK

“Because Jesus lives forever, his priesthood lasts forever. Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf.”

HEBREWS 7:25

RELATE TO GOD AS FATHER, FRIEND AND KING

“We should not focus on the God behind the scenes and thereby lose sight of the God of the scenes.”

PETER ENNS

Exodus NIV Application Commentary

- What feels like a divine delay in your life? What temptation surrounds it?
- Has your prayer life slipped into being too passive, or too demanding?
- **What would it look like for you to pursue God in prayer during the delay and to trust Him as Faithful Father, Influential Friend and Caring King?**